

SENATOR ISADORE HALL, III
35TH SENATE DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4085 ★ SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/HALL

SJR 20 (Hall) Publicly Funded Gun Violence Research
FACT SHEET

Sponsor: Senator Isadore Hall, III
Staff Contact: Brian Duke, (916) 651-4035

ISSUE

Every day, gun violence destroys lives, families and communities. From 2002 to 2013, California lost 38,576 individuals to gun violence. In 2013 alone, guns were used to kill 2,900 Californians, including 251 children and teens. That year, at least 6,035 others were hospitalized or treated in emergency rooms for non-fatal gunshot wounds, including 1,275 children and teens.

Since 1996, and in spite of these staggering numbers, the United States Congress has continually adopted annual policy riders known as the “Dickey Amendment” and “Rehberg Amendment.” These riders have effectively prohibited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other agencies, from conducting publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence or its effects on public health.

During the same period, the federal government has spent \$240 million a year on traffic safety research which kills the same number of people as gun violence every year. This lack of research has made it more difficult to objectively assess the public health impacts of gun violence and find ways to reduce the number of innocent lives lost every year.

SOLUTION

SJR 20 (Hall) urges the United States Congress to promptly lift the prohibition on publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence and its effects on public health, and to appropriate funds to the CDC and other relevant agencies falling under the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

A comprehensive evidence-based federal approach to reducing and preventing gun violence is needed to ensure that our communities are safe. Federal research is crucial to saving lives from motor vehicle accidents, sudden infant death syndrome, lead poisoning and countless other public crises. It is time for Congress to lift the prohibition on publicly funded research, and treat gun violence as the public health crisis that it is.

SUPPORT

American Academy of Pediatrics
Americans for Responsible Solutions
Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, California Chapters
Brotherhood Crusade
California Black Health Network
California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
California Children's Hospital Association
California Communities United Institute
California Police Chiefs Association
California School Boards Association
California State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
California State Sheriff's Association
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
City of Long Beach
Coalition Against Gun Violence
Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
Courage Campaign
Doctors for America – California
Health Officers Association of California
International Health & Epidemiology Research Center
Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
Los Angeles City Attorney Michael Feuer
Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti
Nevada County Democrats
Peace Over Violence
Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Rainbow Services
Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles
Youth Alive!

(As amended 3/28/16)